



The New River Improvement Project



A Project of the California Mexico Border Relations Council and the City of Calexico

New River Improvement Project

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Calexico Community Center
707 Dool Ave.
Calexico, California 92231

Thursday
September 30, 2010
2:00 p.m.

MEETING NOTES

- 1. Welcome and Introductions.** The New River Improvement Project Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Chair Ricardo Martinez (California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)) called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. and welcomed the committee members/designees/alternates. In attendance were the following committee members/designees/alternates: Miguel Figueroa (Calexico New River Committee), Ricardo Martinez (California Environmental Protection Agency), Daniel Garza, California Environmental Protection Agency alternate), Luis Estrada (City of Calexico), Jose L. Angel (Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board), Jose Luis Olmedo (Comité Cívico Del Valle), Andy Horne (County of Imperial designee), Steve Charleton (Imperial Irrigation District designee), Antonio Ortega (Office of Assembly Member V. Manuel Perez designee), Eduardo Demesa (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), and Jonathan Ballard (U.S. General Services Administration). Committee members in attendance by phone were Erika Contreras (Office of Assembly Member V. Manuel Perez) and Linsey Dale (Imperial County Farm Bureau). Committee members unable to attend included: Ema Rosa Silva (Calexico Community Representative), Frank Gonzalez (CalTrans), Anna Milloy (California Department of Fish and Game), Leon Lesicka (Citizens Congressional Task Force on the New River), Lisa Santana (International Boundary and Water Commission), and Stephen Roeder (San Diego State University). Also in attendance were: Carlos Angulo (CalEPA), Jose Carmona (Office of Assembly Member V. Manuel Perez), Logan Raub ((Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board), John McCaull (a consultant - by phone), and facilitators Carl Nettleton and Gabriela Coverdale.
- 2. TAC Chair Update.** Chair Martinez updated the committee on several items of importance since the last meeting. Several meetings had to be cancelled while details of agreements were being worked out. The federal Transportation Equity Act grant of \$3.2 million called for in AB 1079 has been awarded to the City of Calexico, and the State of California has advised the City the time is right to apply for the \$800,000 in Proposition 84 matching funds also called for in AB 1079.
- 3. Review and Discussion of Draft TAC Charter.** The committee carefully reviewed the draft Technical Advisory Committee charter and a review version is attached. COMMENTS ARE REQUESTED BY OCTOBER 6 TO ALLOW FOR ADOPTION AT THE OCTOBER 14 TAC COMMITTEE MEETING. This fast turnaround is requested so the City, the County and perhaps other agencies can have time to obtain appropriate approvals from their agencies. Several key items resulted from the discussion regarding Technical Advisory Committee members:

- a. Roger Dunn is unable to continue as Stephen Roeder's designee. Ricardo Martinez will contact Paul Ganster at SDSU to determine who might be designated in his place.
- b. Leon Lesicka's alternate for the Citizens Congressional Task Force on the New River will be Marie Barrett.
- c. General Manager Brian Brady will represent the Imperial Irrigation District with Steve Charleton as his alternate.
- d. Lisa Santana from the International Boundary and Water Commission's El Paso office will represent that organization.
- e. The TAC suggested that CalEPA Secretary Linda Adams appoint a representative from the California Department of Public Health. Marilyn Underwood was suggested as the likely representative.
- f. The U.S. Border Patrol has declined to participate on the committee.
- g. The U.S. EPA has not responded.
- h. Antonio Ortega will be the designee for Erika Contreras for the Office of Assembly Member V. Manuel Perez.

4. Update from Workgroups. The Chairs of each work group provided the following updates for the committee:

- a. **Impairments/Remediation Workgroup.** Jose Angel reported that the Impairments/Remediation Workgroup has been meeting and has developed a work plan for both the impairments and remediation functions. The committee also has determined the base information identifying the impairments required by AB 1079. Jose also reported that Mexico plans to encase the river from the Reforma Bridge to the U.S./Mexico border. The encasement would be able to withstand a 10-year storm. The Department of Toxic Control will review the New River floodplain and provide lab services to take a look at the contaminants in the soil. It was suggested that Architecto Carlos Lopez, Deputy Director of SIDUE (Secretaría de Infraestructura y Desarrollo Urbano del Estado) become part of the workgroup
- b. **Funding/Background Workgroup.** Ricardo Martinez reported that the Funding/Background Workgroup has not yet met. . It was suggested that Bob Hamm from the County of Imperial Department of Public Health be added to the work group.
- c. **River Parkway Visioning.** Miguel Figueroa reported that The River Parkway Visioning Workgroup has been meeting and provided the two attached reports on the group's work. Those reports include background information on previous work completed and proposed for the New River and reviews of the following three previous "visioning" efforts:
 - i. The City of Calexico's 2007 General Plan Update and recent community design proposals for the New River Improvement Project.
 - ii. The General Services Administration's (GSA) suggested options for the New River as part of their Calexico Port of Entry Border Crossing Project1.
 - iii. The recent report required by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Congress from GSA entitled "Options for Covering the New River from the International Border to Highway 98 in the City of Calexico, California" (April 2010).

5. Workgroups meetings. This agenda item was not discussed other than the work groups will continue meeting independently between TAC meeting with facilitative services available from Nettleton Strategies as needed.

6. Next Steps. The following next steps were determined:

- a. The committee will provide comments on the draft charter to the Steering Committee (via Trevor Taniguchi) by October 6.
- b. The workgroup chairs will provide work plans for their work groups to the Steering Committee by October 6.
- c. All TAC committee organizations will provide GIS layers and maps to Gabriela Coverdale by October 6.
- d. Committee chairs will provide updated work group rosters to Trevor Taniguchi by October 6 for distribution to the TAC.
- e. The City of Calexico will provide a copy of the State Water Board Resources Control Board \$400,000 grant to the TAC.
- f. The TAC Roster will be updated and distributed to the TAC by Trevor Taniguchi.
- g. Carl Nettleton will revise the meeting schedule for review by the TAC.

7. Next Meeting. The next meeting will be held Thursday, October 14, 2010, at 2:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:45 p.m.